IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-27 (Cancelled).

Claim 28 (New): A multicolor printing system, comprising:

a first master making device capable of feeding a new master and discharging a used master and allowing at least one ink drum to be removably mounted thereto;

a second master making device capable of feeding a new master and discharging a used master and allowing at least one ink drum to be removably mounted thereto;

a multicolor printer adapted to be loaded with a plurality of different removable ink drums, one after the other, from the first and second master making device, but void of a master making arrangement including a master feeding function and a master discharging function;

at least one ink drum shared by said first master making device and said multicolor printer; and

at least one ink drum shared by said second master making device and said multicolor printer.

Claim 29 (New) A multicolor printing system as claimed in claim 28, wherein said ink drums of said first master making device and said second master making device are replaceable with each other.

Claim 30 (New) A multicolor printing system as claimed in claim 29, wherein said ink drums are replaced in an identical angular position throughout said printing system.

Claim 31 (New) A multicolor printing system as claimed in claim 30, wherein said ink drums are rotated to said identical angular position when said ink drums are removed from said first master making device, said second master making device, or said multicolor printer.

Claim 32 (New) A multicolor printing system as claimed in claim 31, wherein a downstream one of said ink drums in an intended direction of paper conveyance is provided with a phase adjusting mechanism acting only on an upstream one of said ink drums next to the downstream ink drum.

Claim 33 (New) A multicolor printing system as claimed in claim 30, wherein a downstream one of said ink drums in an intended direction of paper conveyance is provided with a phase adjusting mechanism acting only on an upstream one of said ink drums next to the downstream ink drum.

Claim 34 (New) A multicolor printing system as claimed in claim 29, wherein said ink drums are rotated to said identical angular position when said ink drums are removed from said first master making device, said second master making device, or said multicolor printer.

Claim 35 (New) A multicolor printing system as claimed in claim 34, wherein a downstream one of said ink drums in an intended direction of paper conveyance is provided with a phase adjusting mechanism acting only on an upstream one of said ink drums next to the downstream ink drum.

Claim 36 (New) A multicolor printing system as claimed in claim 29, wherein a downstream one of said ink drums in an intended direction of paper conveyance is provided with a phase adjusting mechanism acting only on an upstream one of said ink drums next to the downstream ink drum.

Claim 37 (New) A multicolor printing system as claimed in claim 28, wherein said ink drums are replaced in an identical angular position throughout said printing system.

Claim 38 (New) A multicolor printing system as claimed in claim 37, wherein said ink drums are rotated to said identical angular position when said ink drums are removed from said first master making device, said second master making device, or said multicolor printer.

Claim 39 (New) A multicolor printing system as claimed in claim 38, wherein a downstream one of said ink drums in an intended direction of paper conveyance is provided with a phase adjusting mechanism acting only on an upstream one of said ink drums next to the downstream ink drum.

Claim 40 (New) A multicolor printing system as claimed in claim 37, wherein a downstream one of said ink drums in an intended direction of paper conveyance is provided with a phase adjusting mechanism acting only on an upstream one of said ink drums next to the downstream ink drum.

Claim 41 (New) A multicolor printing system as claimed in claim 28, wherein a downstream one of said ink drums in an intended direction of paper conveyance is provided with a phase adjusting mechanism acting only on an upstream one of said ink drums next to the downstream ink drum